

**CENTRE COUNTY
RETIRED AND
SENIOR VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM**

(814) 355-6816
FAX (814) 548-1137

RSVP is a community
service organization for
Centre County volunteers
age 55 & older.

RSVP Update is a
publication of the
Retired and Senior
Volunteer Program.

RSVP Staff

Jane Taylor, Dir. OOA
Brian Querry, RSVP Dir.
Brenda Reeve, Admin. Ast.
Andrea Puzycski, Prog. Ast.

Advisory Council

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Flora Brooks
Roger Cartright
Marie Crater
Barbara Dean, chair
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Vickie Morgan
Pat Park
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RSVP *Update*

Summer 2013

From the Director: Gearing Up For a Meaningful Fall



After a busy
first six months
of 2013, RSVP
is taking a little
breather be-
fore gearing up
for the start of

the school year and the start of
the 2013/14 Pen Pal Program.

The first part of 2013 was ex-
tremely busy with tax season.
Tax season is an "all hands on
deck" program for RSVP. I was
out of the office during a majority
of the season leaving Brenda and
Andrea to take up the slack.
Additionally, we had to enlist
volunteers to make appointments
for those requesting assistance
with their taxes. During tax
season, many times all of our
phone lines were being used for
appointments. (This is a late
apology for those of you that
called and either got a busy signal

or had to leave a voice message.)
All of the hard work of Brenda,
Andrea and our tax volunteers
resulted in a successful season
with 1,200 individual/families
receiving assistance. If any of you
are interested in joining this pro-
gram, please give me a call.
(Please see page 5 for more on
our Volunteer Income Tax Assis-
tance (VITA) program.)

If this was not enough, we also
had to prepare for the May Meet
and Greet for our Pen Pal pro-
gram. Our Pen Pal program is
our largest program with respect
to the number of volunteers
(over 400) working with this
program. These Meet and Greets
require a tremendous amount of
coordination. From ensuring that
all the children have someone to
meet to making sure that the
books and snacks are ready to go
for this event. Again the hard

work of Brenda, Andrea and all of
the volunteers resulted in another
successful program year. (Please
see page 7 for more on our Pen
Pal program.)

Hopefully, you will forgive me for
rambling on about these two pro-
grams, but I am very proud of what
we (most importantly, you the
volunteers) have accomplished
during the first part of 2013. That
said, we have many other pro-
grams/partners that are in need of
you. As you take a break during
the "Dog Days of Summer" and
contemplate what you are going to
do this fall and winter, go to our
web site for additional volunteer
opportunities or give us a call.
Volunteering is good for the body
and soul!

Brian

bquerry@centrecountypa.gov

Grace Bardine: RSVP's Rose Cologne Award Recipient

The true gift of giving has our
Grace Bardine
'Cause her 521 volunteer
hours in 2012 are far from
routine!

When asked why she does it,
this questioner's told
"Why not? Who wants to sit
around and get old?"
Grace serves with RSVP part-
ners who know she is after
fun times with good folks,
sharing "bad" jokes
and laughter.

Grace is a wrapper at the
Red Cross, and works
her favorite shifts

at a booth in the mall
wrapping Christmas gifts.
Grace "secretaried" the
Housing Transitions board
for 22 years,

and as cashier at
the St. Vincent
thrift store, jokes
keep her in tears.
Grace once tripped
the alarm as Boal's
Columbus Chapel
tour guide,
but now fills a new
post on the CVIM
phone, at age 80,
with pride!

Grace's life is a tribute
to volunteering.
She stays involved and keeps
laughing, and that makes her
endearing!



*The Rose Cologne
Award is sponsored
by the Centre
County Council for
Human Services.
The award was
presented at a
dinner on April 25,
2013.*

Brenda's Corner sheltered pets!



Let's work together for sheltered pets. I recently rescued a dog from the SPCA and her name is Shiloh. She is so full of joy and energy and loves to eat my soap.

Health Benefits of Pet ownership

According to the American Association of Pet Products Manufacturers National Pet Owners Survey:

- 63% U.S. households have a pet
- 45% of U.S. households have more than one pet
- In 1988, the first year the survey was conducted, 56% of U.S. households had a pet as compared to the 63% of present day.

Overall Health and Cost

People who have pets report better health when compared to non-pet parents.

Pets can decrease your:

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol levels
- Triglyceride levels
- Feelings of loneliness

Increased Physical Activity

The need to exercise and care for pets keeps pet parents active and provides increased outdoor activity.

Pets are nonjudgmental playmates who provide play on demand. They are always willing to chase a ball, go for a

walk or interact with us. Play is essential for social, intellectual, physical and emotional growth.

Information compiled from the research of Dr. Kevin Connolly, Founder of the Paws for Health program of the Richmond SPCA.



What if you can't have a pet where you live? PAWS and the SPCA can always use your help by walking and feeding the furry friends. They also need helpers to tend to the beautiful

purrrrrrring cats. Why not contact our office today to see what you can do.

Brenda 🍏

breeve@centrecountypa.gov

Andrea's Corner: Are you wishing for an opportunity?



OK, so it is July and it is hot and perhaps sipping sweet tea in the shade is more

appealing than say...planning for activities that will happen next fall...but still, wouldn't it be lovely to have something productive to think about while we sip our tea?

RSVP may have a few potential opportunities just waiting for the person with shared vision to fuel the project. Would you or an organization you belong to, be interested in partnering with RSVP to accomplish any of these?



- 9/11 Day of Service First Responders Acknowledgement
- Be a Santa to a Senior (Oct-Dec 2013)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project / (January 2014)

If you would be interested in finding out more about these opportunities, please contact our office.

We would love to hear your ideas and have the opportunity to find ways to bring these projects full circle so that next year, as we sip our tea in the shade, we might be enjoying the satisfaction of a job well done.



We would also like to extend best wishes for a happy

70th wedding anniversary to
Clint & Marsha Hegeman
married not on July the 3rd,
but on **July the 10th, 1943**

Brenda tells me that only 0.01 percent of our population celebrates a 70th wedding anniversary. Couldn't be happening to a nicer couple!

If you have celebrated a 70th wedding anniversary, please let us know!

Andrea

ampuzicky@centrecountypa.gov

RSVP ON-LINE

**Please visit
our new web-
site and note
our change of
email!**

WEBSITE
centrecountypa.gov

EMAILS:
bquery
@centrecountypa.gov
breeve
@centrecountypa.gov
ampuzicky
@centrecountypa.gov

More Than 25 Years!
At our recognition luncheon to be held on Wednesday, September 25th we will honor volunteers who have served with RSVP for 25 years of service.

In the meantime, it seemed good to recognize our active volunteers who have served more than 25 years, some have been with RSVP since the beginning in 1985.

Kenneth Fleck
Elizabeth Gouty
Clinton Hegeman
Marcia Hegeman
Betty McGonigal
Emma Zimmerman

More than 100 Birthdays!
Very happy birthdays to volunteers who are more than 100 and still recording volunteer hours in 2013!

Della Bube
Aida Larney

See our 90th (plus) birthday list on page 6!



Sandra Bechdel
Eileen Booz
Robert Booz
Rowena Bowers
Bonnie Brown
Donald Brown
Shirley Brungard
Erskine Cash
Wilhelmina Cash
Connie Cavalier
Gene Confer
Elena M. DeLuca
David Ferree
Sandra Ferree

Anne Fredericks
Robert Fugate
Anthony Grillo
David E. Henrie
Betsy Hersick
Connie Hile
Gary Hile
Lynn Hotcheson
Donald E. Kerr
Vicky Koch
Gerald Korman
Marjorie A. Korman
Mildred Lin
Robert R. Long
Michael Mahar
John Mulfinger
Carol Palmer
James Park
Cindy Parsons
Cheryl Pataky

Louis Rubano
Donald Rudy
Dorothy Rudy
Matthew Rutschkey
Louise Sandmeyer
Dorothy Sauerwein
Foster Sayers
James Shuey
Cheryl Spotts
Kerm Spotts
Mavis Stapleford
Kathy Stem
Natalie Struble
Philip Struble
Virginia Struble
Lola Mae Thompson
David Truesdale
Robert Vierck
Marilyn Wohl

Hopping Happy for new volunteers!

2012-2013 Pen Pal Postal Contributors

At the end of the previous school year, our pen pal program lost its corporate postal sponsor. When we told the pen pals what happened, they responded generously to keep the letters coming! We extend our sincere thanks to the following groups and individuals:

Babs Bengtson, Pocket Changes (WPSU)

Mona Butler, Pen Pal

Joseph William,
First National Bank

Sharon Leach, Pen Pal

Annie Rose, Pen Pal

Richard and JoAnn
Knupp, Care For
People

Nancy Kurzinger,
RSVP Volunteer

Joan & Daniel
Kerstetter,
Pen Pal

Donna & Richard
Schutz,
Pen Pal

Ethel & Guy Leach, Pen Pal

Jeremy Warner, Pen Pal

Bette Jackson, PP Friend

Margaret Martz,
Wegmans

Barbara Weaver, PP Friend

Ted & Betsy Taylor, Pen Pals

Jennifer Tanner, PP Friend

State College
B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1600

Lori Helms, Pen Pal

Eagle Ambassadors,
Bald Eagle Alumni
Association



Rose Hoover (left),
Eagle Ambassadors Board Member, attended the Port Matilda Meet & Greet to celebrate the Eagle Ambassador's contribution of \$1,900 to the BEASD Pen Pal Program postage campaign with Brian Querry, RSVP Program Director, and many happy pen pals!

Thank you
Eagle
Ambassadors!

Photo (left) by Barbara Parker



Meet & Greet
Sponsors
With many thanks
to the businesses
and
organizations
whose generous
donations
made our
Pen Pal
Meet & Greets
possible.

Terry L. Park Trucking,
Inc.

Daughenbaugh
Funeral Home, Inc.

Shear Science

Interfuse/Smitchko
Tool & Die, Inc.

Knights of Columbus
Our Lady of the
Mountain Council
#12038

Snow Shoe Lions
Club

Howard Area Lions
Club

Milesburg American
Legion Club 893

Rees Exit 22 Truck
Stop

Coca-Cola
Refreshments, USA

Partner Opportunities!

POLICE ACADEMY
Centre County Triad, announces Police Academy September 9-13 from 8:30 to noon each day. Police Academy is available to 25 people and is free of charge. TRIAD is a working partnership with county senior citizens and all Centre County law enforcement agencies and was established in 1997. TRIAD sponsors a Police Academy and various crime prevention programs for our seniors every year. Please contact **Helen Evens** at (814) 237-8932 for more information about the Police Academy.

MOUNT NITTANY MEDICAL CENTER (MNMIC)
TWO OPPORTUNITIES
Greeter on Blue Course Drive: Greeters are needed in the waiting room at the new facility, Mount Nittany Health--Blue Course Drive. The shifts will be 8:00 AM - Noon; or Noon-4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Mail Room Assistant:
Mail clerks are needed for sorting, posting and delivering mail within the MNMC facility.

Please contact **Vickie Morgan** at (814)234-6170

DRIVERS for CHC
Community Help Center is seeking drivers for newly funded rides programs. Please contact **Bonnie Taterson** at (814)272-1542

APPLE FEST
Milesburg Museum is gearing up for the Apple Fest on September 28, 2013 and could use some assistance. Contact **Sandy Hoy** at (814)355-5670 for more information.

APPRISE TRAINING
Most APPRISE counselors are volunteers who start out as ordinary concerned citizens with a question or problem regarding their own health insurance. Finding the answer inspires them to learn more and share what they have learned with others. To become part of this

dynamic team, please call **Judy Furfaro**, 355-6716.

BLOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS
American Red Cross
Blood bank volunteer positions are available through the American Red Cross: Greeters are needed for Bloodmobile sites and on-site at the ARC collection center. Greeters must be comfortable using a computer.

Walkers are needed to escort donors from bed to canteen.

Canteen workers are needed to provide snacks to donors and observe them following donation.

Please contact **Virginia Brown** at (814)237-3162.

BE A SANTA TO A SENIOR
This significant holiday gift giving initiative needs administrative help. Contact **Brenda** at (814)355-6816

Need volunteers? Let us know how we can help!

RSVP Partners are cropping up all over Centre County!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the

uAmerican Association of University Women (AAUW)

u4th Fest Central Pennsylvania July 4th, Inc.

uCentre Hall Potter Township Food Pantry

Your RSVP family of volunteers welcomes you!

Put Your Volunteers On The Big Screen!
We would love to give a shout out to the excellent work you and your volunteers are doing in our community.

Please send us photos (up to five) of volunteers in action to include in our luncheon slide show?

If you send along your logo, we can ID your photos.

PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Partners, submit photos to breeve@centrecounty.org no later than August 1, 2013*.

*Photos for events held between August 1 and September 15 may be included, but please reserve a spot by August 1.

RSVP Partners: Hour Power!

Keeping track of hours is not the most important function at RSVP, but reporting hours for RSVP volunteers does allow them to qualify for our supplemental insurance and our recognition luncheon.

We also keep track so that we are able to announce exciting numbers, for instance *our volunteers reported in excess of 76,000 hours for 2012!*

We are currently preparing our invitation lists for our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, September 25, 2013.

To qualify for the luncheon, a volunteer must have reported a minimum of 12 hours.

If you believe your hours are not being reported, or may be under-reported, please call



us. You may report your hours via email, mail, or fax.

Sometimes keeping track of hours can be cumbersome for our partners. We would welcome the opportunity to help make it easier to report hours.

For RSVP and our volunteers, and most importantly for those we serve, there is power in every hour!

VITA COMPLETES 1,200—2012 RETURNS!

The 2012-2013 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance team includes everyone from site supervisors to IRS Certified preparers, to appointment takers.

Site supervisors secured their sites and scheduled and trained volunteer preparers.

Preparers attended training sessions beginning in

October, took and passed the certification exams, and served their shifts at Schlow Library, Church of the Good Shepherd, Holt Library, Millheim Outreach Center and area senior centers.

The schedulers came on board in January and muscled through the Google docs to share a schedule

and record appointments for more than 1,200 area families. In addition to 2012 returns, 30 previous year returns were also completed.

VITA provides tax preparation help for senior and low income individuals and families, saving money for those who need it most. Well done VITA!



2013 VITA Team

Front: Donna Carey (P), Evelyn Furgison (S), Lola Mae Thompson (S), Shirley Criste
 2nd Row: Nancy Knoffsinger (S), Andrea Commaker (P), Jane Andrews (P), Ken Criste (P),
 Joan Kerstetter (P), Don Adam (P)
 3rd Row: Andrea Puzycski (staff), Melissa Gummo (S), Boyd Spicher (P/Site Supervisor),
 Lance Cooper (P/Site Supervisor), Lou Scalise (P), Brian Querry (P/Director)
 Missing: Brenda Reeve (S/staff), Daniel Dorsey (P), Mark DuMars (P), Lisa Mazzocchi (P),
 Cindy Parsons (P), Lorraine Ritter (P), Ed Strause (P), David Watkins (P),
 (P) = Preparer / (S) = Scheduler

What Summer Means!

Children playing in the sun, making fun of everyone. Ice cream trucks selling frozen treats in the streets. This is what summer means to me.



Little boys in swimming trunks, little girls feeding ducks. I watch the kids playing ball or making flowers fall.

All around me is the sun telling me summer has just begun. Children run, children jump. Frogs in ponds and swimming ducks, make me laugh. I see young love and new love, but old love is rare still. I hear fireworks in the distances. The fourth of July gives me thrills as I remember the fun memories of

what summer brings to me. The lighting up of the sky with fireworks remind me of family, loyalty, and freedom. Summer and its red hot sun can mean many things, but to me this list is done. This is what summer means to me. FREEDOM.

~Author Unknown~ (with variations by Brenda and Marie)

VITA Is recruiting for the 2013 tax season

Qualifications for Preparers:

If you are a caring individual with a good mind for numbers and time and willingness to learn how to use the TaxWise software to complete tax returns, VITA needs you.

Preparers are asked to attend TaxWise training sessions.

Volunteers are asked to work at least one four hour shift per week during the tax season from February through April.

Leadership opportunities for site supervisors are also available.

If you, or someone you know would like to find out more about serving the community as a VITA tax preparer, please contact RSVP today.

Training materials are ready to share, and can nicely round out your "summer reading list"!

Special Olympics: Healthy Athletes are Happy Athletes



From June 6 through 8, 2013 many RSVP volunteers proved once again that Special Olympics athletes are a proud and happy crew. Athletes from all over the state were able to take advantage of the on sight optician, podiatrist, dentist, and nutritionist. Athletes were able to walk away with new glasses and sports goggles, new orthopedic inserts and shoe laces, dental evaluations and cleanings, health screenings and information. RSVP volunteers were helpful in registering athletes for the clinics. RSVP volunteers also worked at various events throughout the games.



PHOTOS: Registering athletes for Fit Feet, visiting "Spitter" the llama, filing athlete clinic registration forms by county and program, and a little bunny love.



Trash to Treasure: Sorting and Stacking

A friendly group of RSVP volunteers arrived to make final preparations for the United Way Trash to Treasure sale, held Saturday, June 1st. The materials are collected from exiting PSU students, and include everything from clothing and coats to desk lamps and fans. The "sorting and sale prep" all take place at Beaver Stadium on the Penn State University Park Campus. There is always lots to do to prepare for the sale, which is a major annual fundraiser for the Centre County United Way. As the photos reveal, the "finds" bring out the fun in sharing the work.

RSVP participates annually in the Trash to Treasure sale to support the United Way of Centre County.



Join RSVP / United Way for the United Way Day of Caring in October

Are your volunteer hours all getting reported?

Call Brenda at the RSVP office (814) 355-6816 to check. Email hours to breeve@centrecountypa.gov, fax them to (814) 548-1137 or mail hours to; 420 Holmes St., Room 339, Bellefonte, PA 16823

90+ Birthdays!

Our fondest happy birthday to our volunteers who turn 90+ in 2013!

Thelma Andrews
Mildred Auman
Margaret Biggans
Ethel Butler
Celia Church
Ginna Corson
Letta Fowler
Jane Gillette
Elizabeth Gouty
Kenneth Greene, Sr.
Marjorie Haagen
Marian Hamby
Clinton Hegeman
Marcia Hegeman
John Hoke
Agnes Homan
Mary Hull
Wilma Kelly
Ruth Kistler
Aida Larney
Romaine Long
Marty Lyons
Zada Magoun
Betty McGonigal
Rebecca McIlvain
George Messick
Helen Roback
Grant Sherritt
Esther Taylor
William Toombs
Mary Ulrich
Jose Ward
Dixie Woodard
Emma Zimmerman

A Year of Giving Generously: Pen Pal Program Sponsors



A happy connection

PHOTO LEFT: When long time pen pal, Jessica Peters (3rd from right) received a literacy grant through her employer, WPSU, she brought the opportunity to connect the grantor, **WPXENERGY** with the Bald Eagle Area School District, providing four years of funding for Pen Pal gift books, plus additional award winning books and PBS Kids library corners and materials for the four school libraries. Celebrating this connection at the Port Matilda Meet & Greet are (L-R) school principal, Terri Kenny; RSVP Dir., Brian Querry; BEASD Director of Elementary Curriculum, James Orichosky; BEASD Superintendent Jeffrey Miles; WPSU Producer, Jessica Peters; WPX Landman, Michael Millinder; and WPX Landman, Sheila Millinder. Thank you Jessica for making this amazing connection and celebration possible!



LOVIN' THOSE LIONS!

Howard Lion's Club members Roland Leach, far left with pen pal, Thomas, and Robert Watson, center with pen pal, Devin, are long time Howard Elementary School Pen Pals.

The Lion pen pals are pictured above with Brian Querry, RSVP Project Director, taking a moment to celebrate the Howard Area Lion's Club's many generous contributions to our Pen Pal Meet & Greets! (Photos, above and bottom right, by Barbara Parker)



THANK YOU BALD EAGLE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS!

Mr. Proctor's Fourth Graders perform the song, *Fireflies*, under the direction of Music educator, Lindsey Allison, seated at the piano. (Photo by Brian Querry)

The sharing of music is a cherished tradition of the pen pal Meet & Greets.

The teachers of Bald Eagle Area elementary schools are creative and welcoming to our pen pals every year, and we thank them for their generous hospitality. From the very first letters written to an "unknown adult" pen pal, through seven letters, to the final joyful gathering, the Bald Eagle teachers are the creative force behind this joint program, and we thank them all!

On a happy note:



Money that had been granted to the pen pals for the gift books was returned to the Bellefonte Elks Garver Fund,

and re-granted to fund a new stove for the Bellefonte Community Lunch Program (an RSVP partner).

Another amazing year. Thank you for such a wonderful program!

Jennifer, a Howard Pen Pal

Join us! 400 Adult Pen Pals make our program work.

300 adults are returning from last year, but new pen pals are needed.

In Bald Eagle valley, a girl on a trip is wondering if her next pen pal has traveled.

A boy just caught a fish he will write about in the fall.

Will he write to you?

Please join us!



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SENIOR
VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM
(814) 355-6816
FAX (814) 548-1137**

www.centrecountypa.gov

Select "RSVP"
under Human Services

RSVP is happy to announce that our Volunteer Luncheon is coming soon!
Volunteers who have reported a minimum of 12 hours will
receive an invitation in August. See *New Opportunities* on page 4.

***Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
Wednesday,
September 25th, 2013
at the Penn Stater!***

PARTNER PHOTOS: A reminder to partners of the opportunity to share the
work of your volunteers with photos for our luncheon slide show.
See page 4 for details.

Thank you for partnering and volunteering with RSVP of Centre County!
The lives enhanced and enriched through volunteering are too numerous to
count, and we couldn't celebrate without you!

Brian Querry, Brenda Reeve, and Andrea Puzycki

Check out our new email addresses on Page 2

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 339
Bellefonte, PA 16823



Look out Summer here we come!

RSVP is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service
and the Centre County Board of Commissioners;
Steven G. Dershem, Chair, Chris Exarchos, Commissioner,
and Michael Pipe, Commissioner,
through the Centre County Office of Aging